

REMARKS

This Response is submitted under Rule 116 in order to place this application in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the above Amendments.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Roche for extending the courtesy of a telephone discussion conducted on June 8, 2005. The discussion focused on the Response to Arguments set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, and on amending the language of claims 4 and 14 to place this application in condition for allowance; particularly, the Examiner indicated that removing the recitation "at least one of" from both claims 4 and 14 would serve this purpose.

In view of the telephone discussion with the Examiner, the above Amendments and the Remarks which follow, reconsideration and allowance of the application is earnestly requested.

Claims 4-23 are pending in this application. Independent claims 4 and 14 have been amended herein. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 9-16, 18, 19 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Rao et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,628,312. The Examiner objected to claims 5, 8, 17 and 20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and intervening claims.

To place the application in form for immediate allowance, Applicant has amended independent claims 4 and 14 as discussed with the Examiner. Particularly, Applicant has

removed the recitation "at least one of" from both claims 4 and 14. No new matter has been introduced.

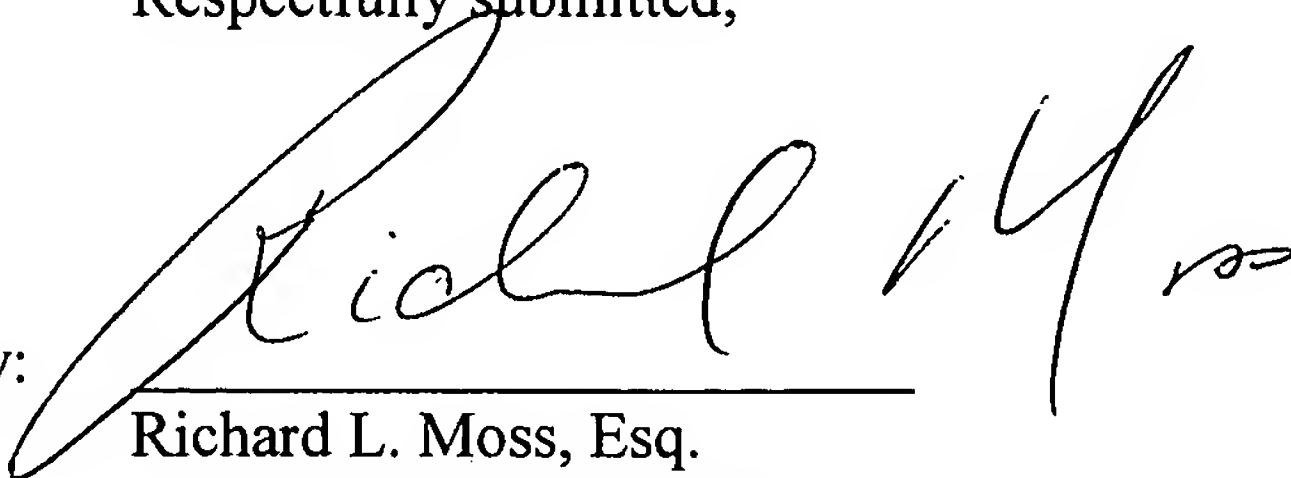
Accordingly, it is submitted that amended independent claims 4 and 14, and claims 5-13 and 15-23 by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 4 and 14 and the additional features recited therein, are in condition for immediate allowance, and notice to this effect is respectfully solicited.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place this application in form for allowance, and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorneys at the telephone number set forth below if it will advance the prosecution of this case.

It is believed that no fee is due with this Response. Please charge any fee deficiency to the undersigned attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Moss", written over a horizontal line.

Richard L. Moss, Esq.

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